

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BERLIN 02071 061334Z

44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03

IO-14 NEA-10 PM-07 NSC-10 DODE-00 DRC-01 AID-20 SAJ-01

/113 W

----- 051233

R 061251Z DEC 73

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2703

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BERLIN 2071

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: WB, PINS

SUBJECT: SPRINGER APPLICATION FOR GUN PERMIT

1. USCOP HAS RECEIVED LETTER FROM AXEL SPRINGER REQUESTING THAT HIS TWO BODYGUARDS BE ISSUED PERMITS TO CARRY GUNS IN WEST BERLIN. AS EMBASSY AWARE, SIMILAR REQUESTS, FROM SPRINGER IN JUNE 1972 AND FROM OTHERS, HAVE BEEN REJECTED ON GROUNDS THAT CONTROL COUNCIL ORDER NO. 2 AND ALLIED LAW 43 PROHIBIT CARRYING OR POSSESSION OF ARMS BY ANY PERSON EXCEPT ALLIED PERSONNEL AND GERMAN POLICE.

2. SPRINGER REQUEST HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WITH FRENCH AND BRITISH MISSIONS AND WITH BERLIN POLICE, ALL OF WHOM ARE OPPOSED TO AUTHORIZING POSSESSION OF WEAPONS BY PRIVATE CITIZENS, INCLUDING BODYGUARDS.

(USCOB CONFIRMED THIS POSITION WITH POLICE PRESIDENT HUEBNER IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION DECEMBER 5.)

TWO YEARS AGO, AFTER ALLIES BECAME AWARE THAT ONE MILITARY MISSION (YUGOSLAV) POSSESSED WEAPONS FOR PROTECTION OF ITS OWN PERSONNEL, CHAIRMAN PROTOCOL OFFICER CIRCULATED NOTE WHICH RESTATED ALLIED BAN ON ARMS AND AMMUNITION AND CONCLUDED: "UNDER THE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BERLIN 02071 061334Z

STRICT CONTROL OF THE SECTOR COMMANDANTS, CERTAIN

SPECIFIC EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE HAVE BEEN MADE,
CHIEFLY IN FAVOR OF CERTAIN GERMAN OFFICIALS, ON
ACCOUNT OF THE NATURE OF THEIR DUTIES, AND IN FAVOR
OF APPROVED SPORTING PURPOSES. HOWEVER, ANY
POSSESSION OR STORAGE OF ARMS WHICH IS NEITHER
WITHIN THE TERMS OF CONTROL COUNCIL ORDER NO. 2
NOR WITHIN ANY OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED SPECIFIC
EXCEPTIONS WOULD BE ILLEGAL." IN MARCH 1973
EL AL DISTRICT MANAGER CALLED ON U.S. PUBLIC SAFETY
ADVISER ON ADVICE OF ISRAELI EMBASSY IN BONN TO
REQUEST GUN PERMIT, BUT APPLICATION WAS REJECTED
FOR SAME REASON.

3. LEGAL ARGUMENTS ASIDE, IT IS EVIDENT THAT
GREAT NUMBER OF PEOPLE COULD DEMONSTRATE NEED FOR
WEAPONS BECAUSE OF SECURITY PROBLEMS SIMILAR TO
SPRINGER'S, AND IF ONE EXCEPTION MADE THERE WOULD
BE TREMENDOUS PRESSURE ON ALLIES AND SENAT TO
AUTHORIZE WEAPONS FOR OTHERS. WE THEREFORE
PROPOSE TO REPLY TO SPRINGER THAT WE HAVE CAREFULLY
REVIEWED MATTER RAISED IN HIS LETTER AND REGRET
TO INFORM HIM THAT WE MUST ABIDE BY PREVIOUS
DECISION AND WILL THEREFORE BE UNABLE TO AUTHORIZE,
EVEN ON TEMPORARY BASIS, CARRYING OF FIREARMS BY
TWO OF HIS EMPLOYEES. WE WOULD ADD THAT WE ARE
FULLY AWARE OF POTENTIAL THREAT TO SPRINGER AND
HIS ORGANIZATION AND ARE KEEPING CLOSE WATCH ON
SITUATION IN CONJUNCTION WITH BERLIN POLICE AUTHORITIES.KLEIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW, PROTECTIVE SECURITY, GUN CONTROL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BERLIN02071
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731242/aaaaberj.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01-Aug-2001 by worrelsw>; APPROVED <20-Sep-2001 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPRINGER APPLICATION FOR GUN PERMIT
TAGS: PINS, WB
To: BONN
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005